Card for for farmers with good track record which enables farmers to secure production credit instantly and dispense with procedural formalities;

(vii) To ensure timely and adequate credit for sustaining agricultural production, banks have been asked to extend a flexible line of credit to eligible farmers in the form of cash credit facility which would meet their composite credit requirments;

(viii) Banks have been asked to finance high-tech activities like aquaculture, floriculture, tissue-culture, bio-technology, etc; and

(ix) Banks have been asked to draw up annual special credit plans with a view to achieving a distinct and market improvement in the flow of credit to agriculture.

Airlinking of Ahmedabad airport with stations abroad

3491. SHRI RAJUBAHI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ahmedabad airport is airlinked with only a few stations abroad, if so, the names of the foreign airports it is linked with at present;

(b) whether there are any proposals to link Ahmedabad with various other international destinations, if so, with which ones; and

(c) whether in view of the trade and business importance of Ahmedabad, besides other factors, Government are examining the matter to link this Airport with other foreign stations of economic importance; if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c) Ahmedabad is directly linked with Muscat, Sharjah and Kuwait by Indian Airlines services. Ahmedabad is also airlinked to a number of other foreign stations through hub and spoke flights over Mumbai and Delhi. The traffic potential between Ahmedabad and other international destinations including Nairobi is presently not sufficient to operate commercially viable direct services.

News-item regarding MRTP probe into PTA pricing policy

3492. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN:

Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the news-item appearing in the Business Standard of 4th June, 1996, under the caption "Reliance faces MRTP probe into PTA pricing policy" come to the notice of Government;

(b) if so, the nature of offence allegedly committed by the company;

(c) what was the result of the probe; and

(d) what action is proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Director General of Investigation and Registration has initiated suo-moto investigation under Section 11(2) of the MRTP Act. 1969 to study the price-mechanism and marketing arrangements followed by Reliance Industries Ltd., Bombay in respect of Purified Teraphthalic Acid (PTA) and for this purpose a letter calling for certain information/documents has been issued by him to the company on 3.6.1996. The relevant information from the company is still awaited.